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NEW MUTANTS STARS

CREATED BY CHRIS CLAREMONT & BOB McLEOD

AWAY GAME!

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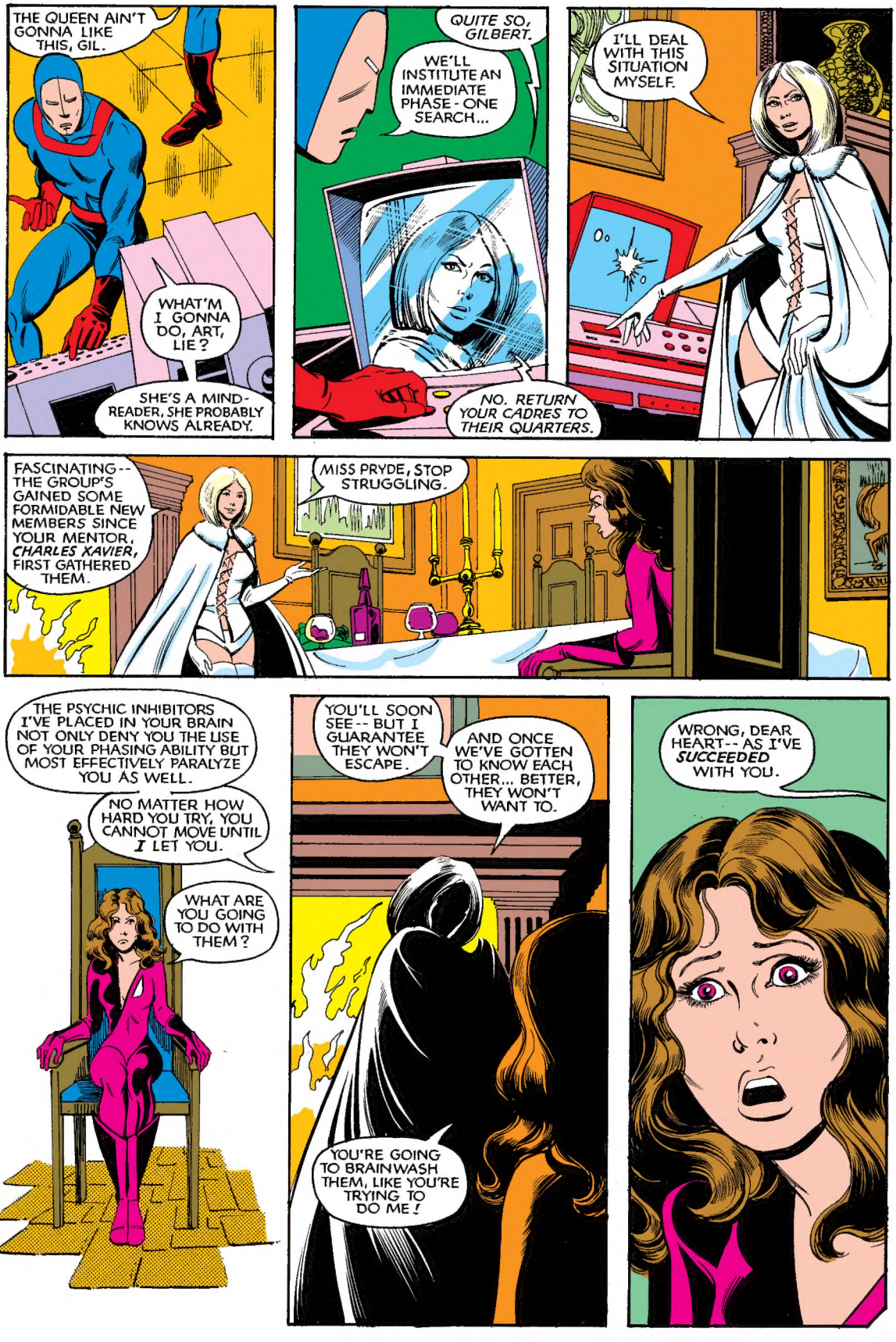
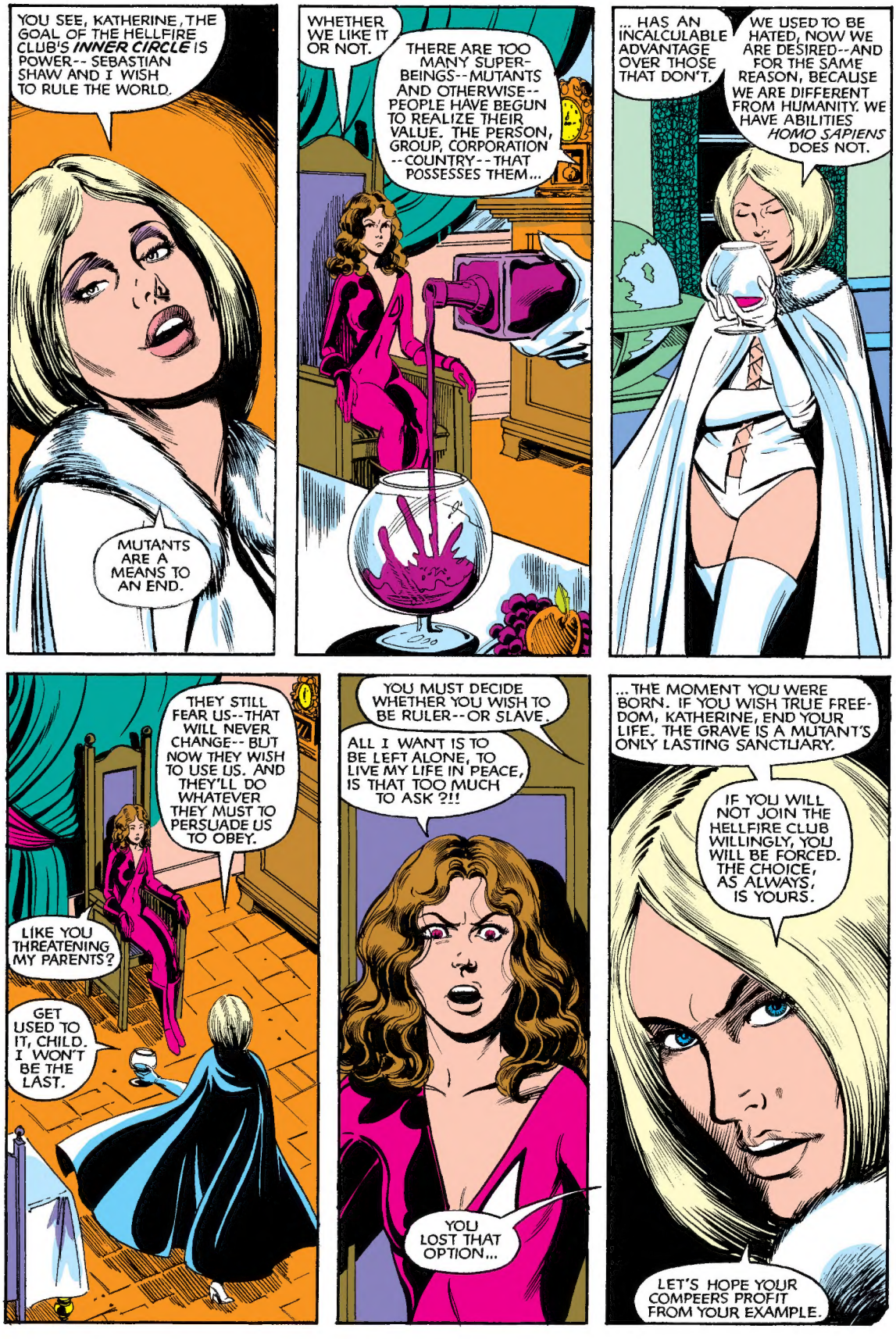
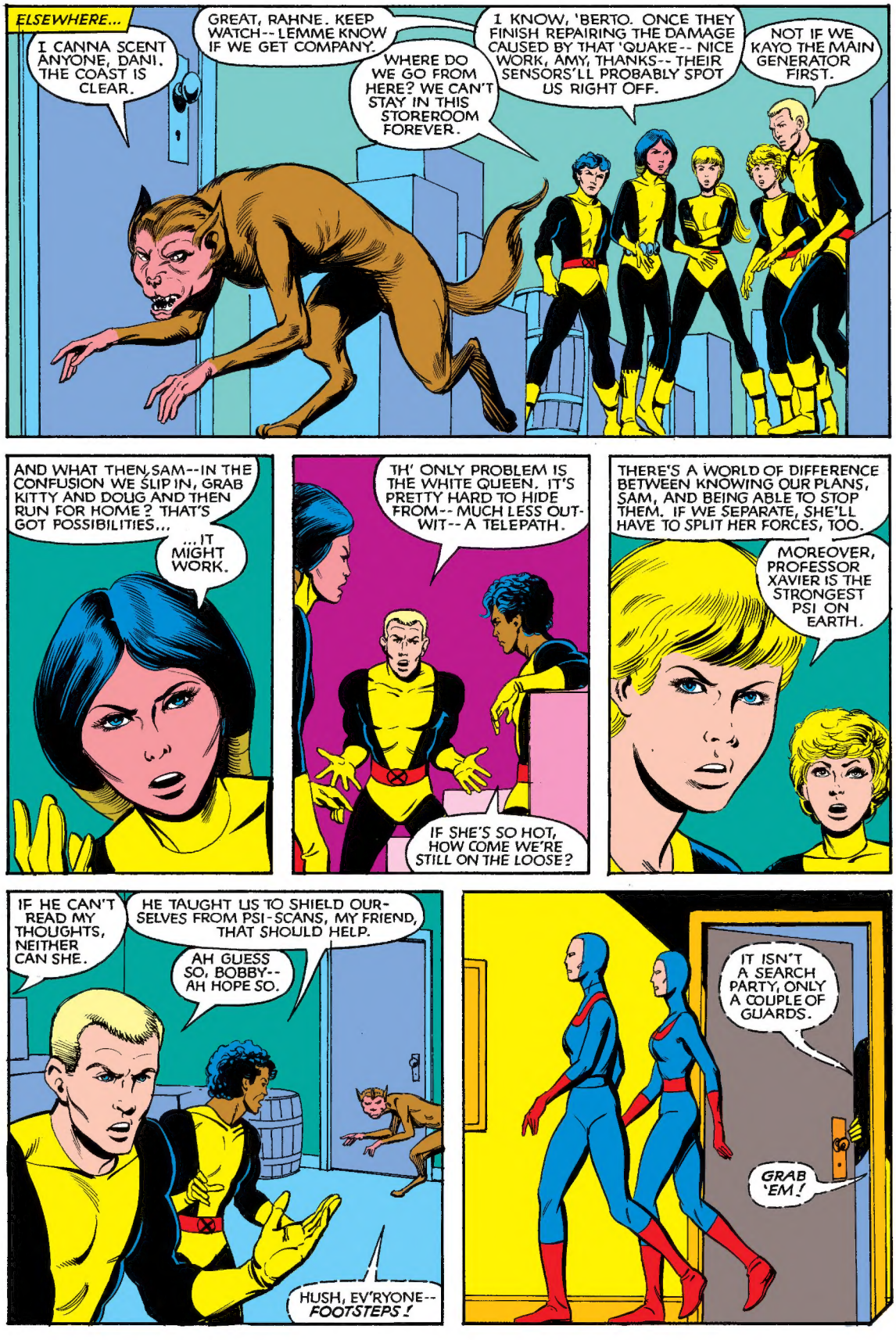
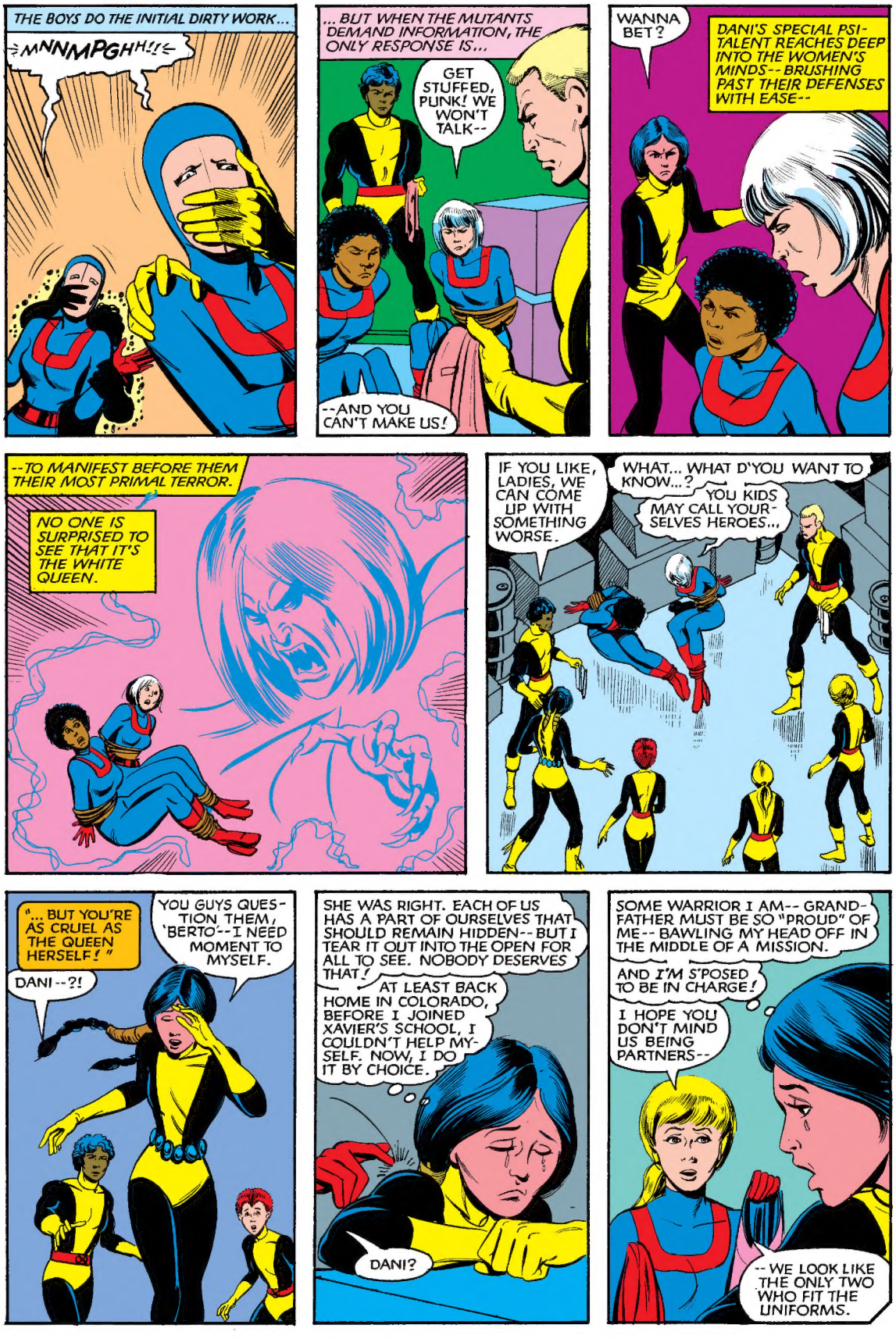
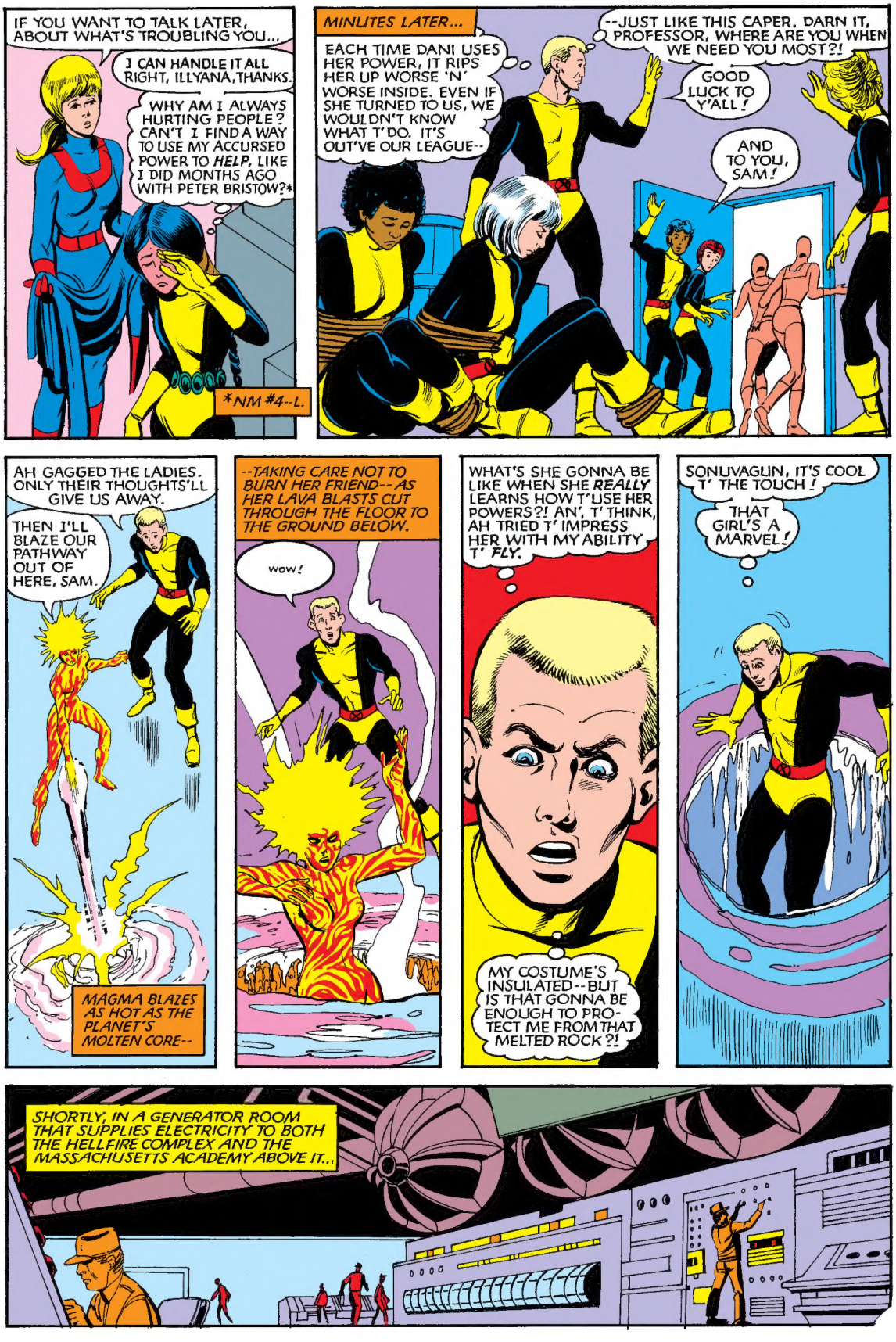
I BROUGHT THE NEW MUTANTS HERE, TO RESCUE KITTY PRYDE -- AND HER FRIEND, DOUG RAMSEY-- BUT, INSTEAD, I'VE LED THEM INTO A TRAP!
HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO STUPID?!!
ILLYANA RASPUTIN IS A TELEPORTER-- ABLE TO MOVE THROUGH SPACE AND TIME-- BUT BEFORE SHE CAN SUMMON AN ENERGY FIELD TO SPIRIT HERSELF AND HER COMPANIONS AWAY...
...SAM GUTHRIE GIVES A SILENT CUE TO AMARA AQUILLA...
...WHO BLAZES BRIGHT AND HOT AS THE SUN...
...USING HER NASCENT CONTROL OVER THE EARTH'S MOLTEN CORE, THE MAGMA THAT IS HER NAMESAKE...
...TO TRIGGER A SUDDEN, DEVASTATING...
EARTH-QUAKE!
THE SCHOOL ABOVE IS UN-AFFECTED BY THE VIOLENT TREMOR. BUT, THROUGHOUT THE SPRAWLING, UNDERGROUND COMPLEX, POWER CONDUITS ARE SEVERED...
...WITH PREDICTABLE RESULTS.
HOWEVER...
I'VE KEYED IN THE EMERGENCY BACK-UPS...
EMERGENCY
--WE'VE GOT LIGHTS!
THE KIDS--
--THEY'RE GONE!!


THE QUEEN AIN'T GONNA LIKE THIS, GIL.
WHAT'M I GONNA DO, ART, LIE?
SHE'S A MIND-READER, SHE PROBABLY KNOWS ALREADY.
QUITE SO, GILBERT.
WE'LL INSTITUTE AN IMMEDIATE PHASE-ONE SEARCH...
NO. RETURN YOUR CADRES TO THEIR QUARTERS.
I'LL DEAL WITH THIS SITUATION MYSELF.
FASCINATING-- THE GROUP'S GAINED SOME FORMIDABLE NEW MEMBERS SINCE YOUR MENTOR, CHARLES XAVIER, FIRST GATHERED THEM.
MISS PRYDE, STOP STRUGGLING.
THE PSYCHIC INHIBITORS I'VE PLACED IN YOUR BRAIN NOT ONLY DENY YOU THE USE OF YOUR PHASING ABILITY BUT MOST EFFECTIVELY PARALYZE YOU AS WELL.
NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY, YOU CANNOT MOVE UNTIL I LET YOU.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THEM?
YOU'LL SOON SEE-- BUT I GUARANTEE THEY WON'T ESCAPE.
AND ONCE WE'VE GOTTEN TO KNOW EACH OTHER... BETTER, THEY WON'T WANT TO.
YOU'RE GOING TO BRAINWASH THEM, LIKE YOU'RE TRYING TO DO ME!
WRONG, DEAR HEART-- AS I'VE SUCCEEDED WITH YOU.

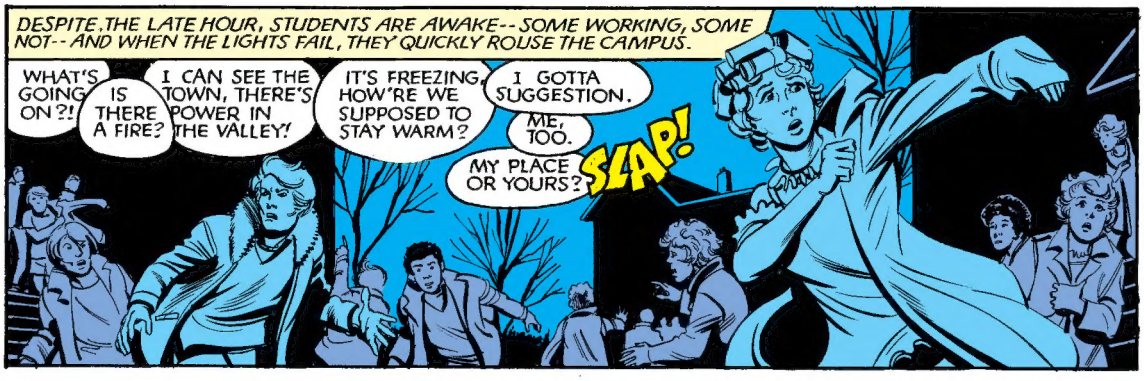

YOU SEE, KATHERINE, THE GOAL OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB'S *INNER CIRCLE* IS POWER-- SEBASTIAN SHAW AND I WISH TO RULE THE WORLD.
MUTANTS ARE A MEANS TO AN END.
WHETHER WE LIKE IT OR NOT.
THERE ARE TOO MANY SUPER-BEINGS--MUTANTS AND OTHERWISE--PEOPLE HAVE BEGUN TO REALIZE THEIR VALUE. THE PERSON, GROUP, CORPORATION --COUNTRY--THAT POSSESSES THEM...
... HAS AN INCALCULABLE ADVANTAGE OVER THOSE THAT DON'T.
WE USED TO BE HATED, NOW WE ARE DESIRED--AND FOR THE SAME REASON, BECAUSE WE ARE DIFFERENT FROM HUMANITY. WE HAVE ABILITIES *HOMO SAPIENS* DOES NOT.
THEY STILL FEAR US--THAT WILL NEVER CHANGE-- BUT NOW THEY WISH TO USE US. AND THEY'LL DO WHATEVER THEY MUST TO PERSUADE US TO OBEY.
LIKE YOU THREATENING MY PARENTS?
GET USED TO IT, CHILD. I WON'T BE THE LAST.
YOU MUST DECIDE WHETHER YOU WISH TO BE RULER--OR SLAVE.
ALL I WANT IS TO BE LEFT ALONE, TO LIVE MY LIFE IN PEACE, IS THAT TOO MUCH TO ASK ?!!
YOU LOST THAT OPTION...
...THE MOMENT YOU WERE BORN. IF YOU WISH TRUE FREEDOM, KATHERINE, END YOUR LIFE. THE GRAVE IS A MUTANT'S ONLY LASTING SANCTUARY.
IF YOU WILL NOT JOIN THE HELLFIRE CLUB WILLINGLY, YOU WILL BE FORCED. THE CHOICE, AS ALWAYS, IS YOURS.
LET'S HOPE YOUR COMPEERS PROFIT FROM YOUR EXAMPLE.


ELSEWHERE...
I CANNA SCENT ANYONE, DANI. THE COAST IS CLEAR.
GREAT, RAHNE. KEEP WATCH--LEMME KNOW IF WE GET COMPANY.
WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? WE CAN'T STAY IN THIS STOREROOM FOREVER.
I KNOW, 'BERTO. ONCE THEY FINISH REPAIRING THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY THAT 'QUAKE-- NICE WORK, AMY, THANKS-- THEIR SENSORS'LL PROBABLY SPOT US RIGHT OFF.
NOT IF WE KAYO THE MAIN GENERATOR FIRST.
AND WHAT THEN, SAM--IN THE CONFUSION WE SLIP IN, GRAB KITTY AND DOUG AND THEN RUN FOR HOME? THAT'S GOT POSSIBILITIES...
...IT MIGHT WORK.
TH' ONLY PROBLEM IS THE WHITE QUEEN. IT'S PRETTY HARD TO HIDE FROM-- MUCH LESS OUT-WIT--A TELEPATH.
IF SHE'S SO HOT, HOW COME WE'RE STILL ON THE LOOSE?
THERE'S A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN KNOWING OUR PLANS, SAM, AND BEING ABLE TO STOP THEM. IF WE SEPARATE, SHE'LL HAVE TO SPLIT HER FORCES, TOO.
MOREOVER, PROFESSOR XAVIER IS THE STRONGEST PSI ON EARTH.
IF HE CAN'T READ MY THOUGHTS, NEITHER CAN SHE.
HE TAUGHT US TO SHIELD OUR-SELVES FROM PSI-SCANS, MY FRIEND, THAT SHOULD HELP.
AH GUESS SO, BOBBY-- AH HOPE SO.
HUSH, EV'RYONE-- FOOTSTEPS!
IT ISN'T A SEARCH PARTY, ONLY A COUPLE OF GUARDS.
GRAB 'EM!


THE BOYS DO THE INITIAL DIRTY WORK...
MNNMPGH!!
... BUT WHEN THE MUTANTS DEMAND INFORMATION, THE ONLY RESPONSE IS...
GET STUFFED, PUNK! WE WON'T TALK--
--AND YOU CAN'T MAKE US!
WANNA BET?
DANI'S SPECIAL PSI-TALENT REACHES DEEP INTO THE WOMEN'S MINDS--BRUSHING PAST THEIR DEFENSES WITH EASE--
--TO MANIFEST BEFORE THEM THEIR MOST PRIMAL TERROR.
NO ONE IS SURPRISED TO SEE THAT IT'S THE WHITE QUEEN.
IF YOU LIKE, LADIES, WE CAN COME UP WITH SOMETHING WORSE.
WHAT... WHAT D'YOU WANT TO KNOW...?
YOU KIDS MAY CALL YOURSELVES HEROES...
"... BUT YOU'RE AS CRUEL AS THE QUEEN HERSELF!"
DANI--?!
YOU GUYS QUESTION THEM, 'BERTO--I NEED MOMENT TO MYSELF.
SHE WAS RIGHT. EACH OF US HAS A PART OF OURSELVES THAT SHOULD REMAIN HIDDEN--BUT I TEAR IT OUT INTO THE OPEN FOR ALL TO SEE. NOBODY DESERVES THAT!
AT LEAST BACK HOME IN COLORADO, BEFORE I JOINED XAVIER'S SCHOOL, I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF. NOW, I DO IT BY CHOICE.
DANI?
SOME WARRIOR I AM--GRANDFATHER MUST BE SO "PROUD" OF ME--BAWLING MY HEAD OFF IN THE MIDDLE OF A MISSION.
AND I'M S'POSED TO BE IN CHARGE!
I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND US BEING PARTNERS--
--WE LOOK LIKE THE ONLY TWO WHO FIT THE UNIFORMS.

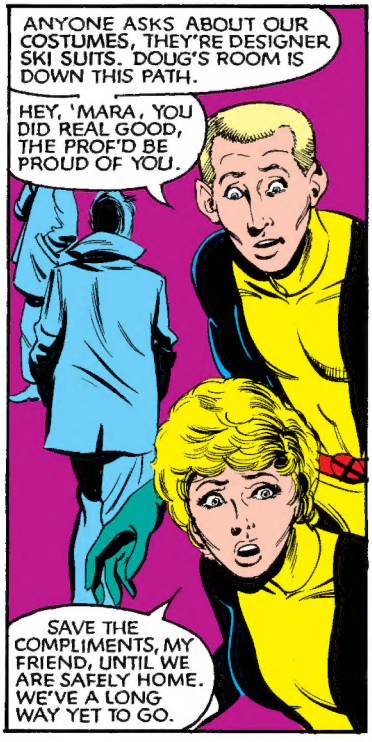

IF YOU WANT TO TALK LATER, ABOUT WHAT'S TROUBLING YOU...
I CAN HANDLE IT ALL RIGHT, ILLYANA, THANKS.
WHY AM I ALWAYS HURTING PEOPLE? CAN'T I FIND A WAY TO USE MY ACCURSED POWER TO HELP, LIKE I DID MONTHS AGO WITH PETER BRISTOW?*
*NM #4--L.
MINUTES LATER...
EACH TIME DANI USES HER POWER, IT RIPS HER UP WORSE 'N' WORSE INSIDE. EVEN IF SHE TURNED TO US, WE WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT T'DO. IT'S OUT'VE OUR LEAGUE--
--JUST LIKE THIS CAPER. DARN IT, PROFESSOR, WHERE ARE YOU WHEN WE NEED YOU MOST?!
GOOD LUCK TO Y'ALL!
AND TO YOU, SAM!
AH GAGGED THE LADIES. ONLY THEIR THOUGHTS'LL GIVE US AWAY.
THEN I'LL BLAZE OUR PATHWAY OUT OF HERE, SAM.
MAGMA BLAZES AS HOT AS THE PLANET'S MOLTEN CORE--
--TAKING CARE NOT TO BURN HER FRIEND--AS HER LAVA BLASTS CUT THROUGH THE FLOOR TO THE GROUND BELOW.
WOW!
WHAT'S SHE GONNA BE LIKE WHEN SHE REALLY LEARNS HOW T'USE HER POWERS?! AN', T'THINK, AH TRIED T' IMPRESS HER WITH MY ABILITY T' FLY.
MY COSTUME'S INSULATED--BUT IS THAT GONNA BE ENOUGH TO PROTECT ME FROM THAT MELTED ROCK?!
SONUVAGUN, IT'S COOL T' THE TOUCH!
THAT GIRL'S A MARVEL!
SHORTLY, IN A GENERATOR ROOM THAT SUPPLIES ELECTRICITY TO BOTH THE HELLFIRE COMPLEX AND THE MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY ABOVE IT...

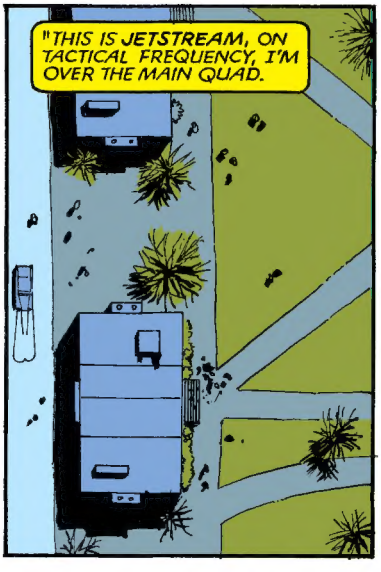
...MAGMA MAKES HER PRESENCE FELT...
YOW!
THE GENERATOR'S -- MELTING!
EVACUATE THE POWER CENTER! IF THE FLAMES REACH THE FUEL OIL BUNKERS, THIS WHOLE PLACE'LL BLOW SKY HIGH!
AMARA'S MORE CAREFUL THAN THAT.
ALL SHE DESTROYS IS THE GENERATOR AND ITS BACK-UPS.
INSTANTLY, THE SCHOOL GOES DARK AND STILL AS THE NIGHT ITSELF...
...WHILE, IN THE RESIDENCE OF ITS PRESIDENT, EMMA FROST-- OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE WHITE QUEEN...
SCORE ONE FOR THE KIDS-- WAY TO GO!
THEY ARE RESOURCEFUL...
...BUT THEN, SO AM I.
YOU JUST CAN'T ADMIT YOU'RE BEING BEATEN BY A GANG OF CHILDREN!
DEAR HEART, THE BATTLE HAS BARELY BEGUN.
ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN.

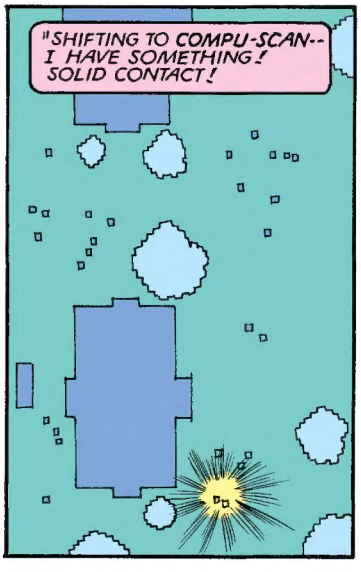

DESPITE THE LATE HOUR, STUDENTS ARE AWAKE-- SOME WORKING, SOME NOT-- AND WHEN THE LIGHTS FAIL, THEY QUICKLY ROUSE THE CAMPUS.
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
IS THERE A FIRE?
I CAN SEE THE TOWN, THERE'S POWER IN THE VALLEY!
IT'S FREEZING, HOW'RE WE SUPPOSED TO STAY WARM?
I GOTTA SUGGESTION.
ME, TOO.
MY PLACE OR YOURS?
SLAP!

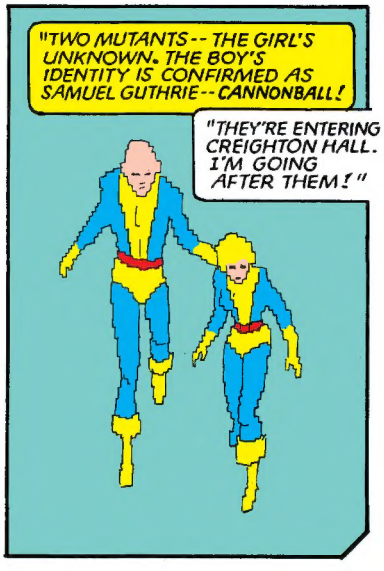
ATTENTION, PLEASE! AS YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED, THERE'S BEEN A SLIGHT ACCIDENT.
NO FOOLIN', JERRY?
STAY CALM. SECURITY'LL BE DISTRIBUTING LANTERNS AND FLASHLIGHTS. GO BACK TO YOUR DORMS, GET DRESSED, STAND BY FOR FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS.

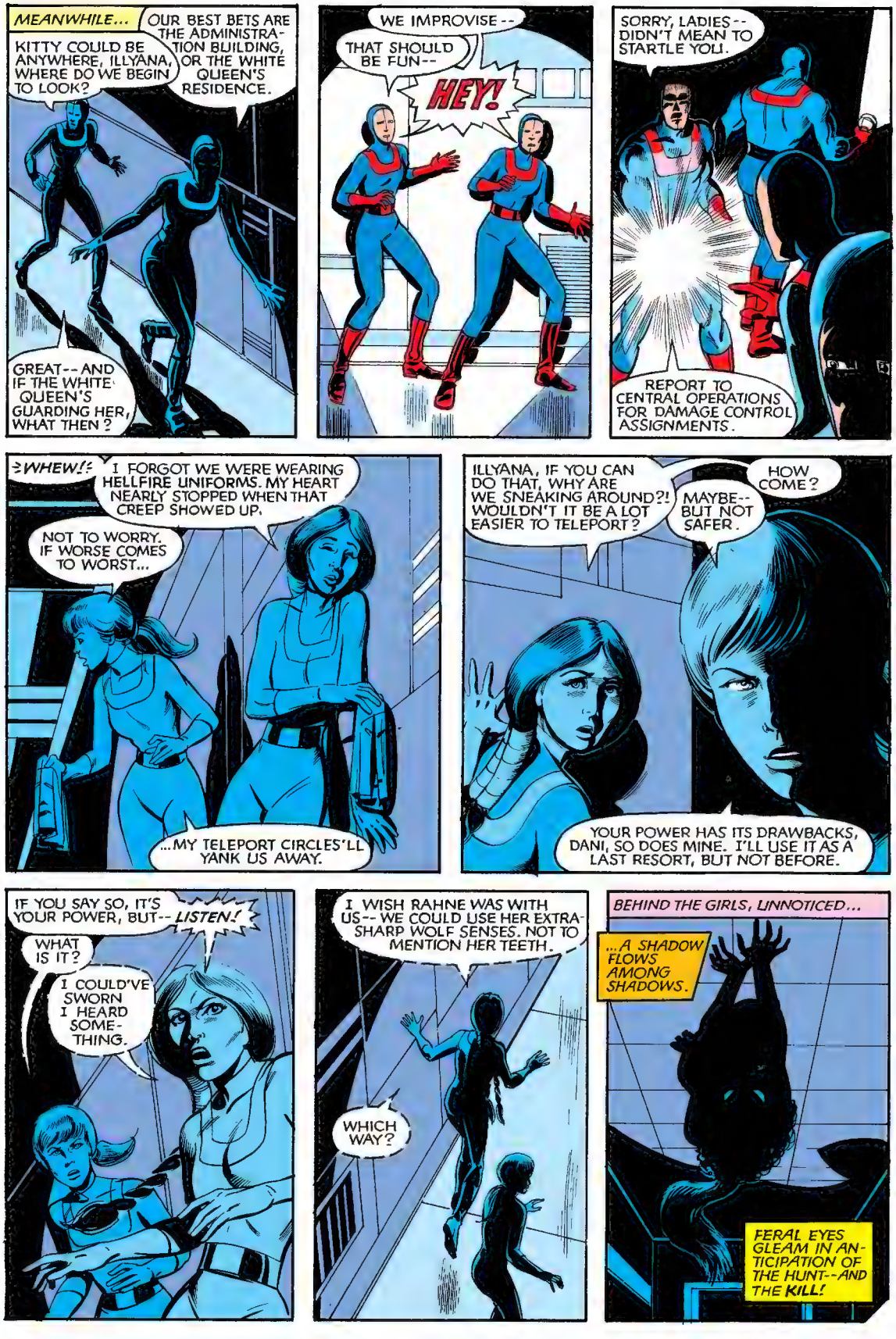
HEY, JER-- ANY IDEA HOW LONG THIS'LL LAST?
YOU'LL KNOW WHEN I DO, RUSSO-- C'MON, PEOPLE, GET INSIDE BEFORE YOU CATCH COLD.
STAY WITH THE CROWD, AMARA-- WE'LL BLEND RIGHT IN.


ANYONE ASKS ABOUT OUR COSTUMES, THEY'RE DESIGNER SKI SUITS. DOUG'S ROOM IS DOWN THIS PATH.
HEY, 'MARA, YOU DID REAL GOOD, THE PROF'D BE PROUD OF YOU.
SAVE THE COMPLIMENTS, MY FRIEND, UNTIL WE ARE SAFELY HOME. WE'VE A LONG WAY YET TO GO.


"THIS IS JETSTREAM, ON TACTICAL FREQUENCY, I'M OVER THE MAIN QUAD.


"SHIFTING TO COMPU-SCAN-- I HAVE SOMETHING! SOLID CONTACT!

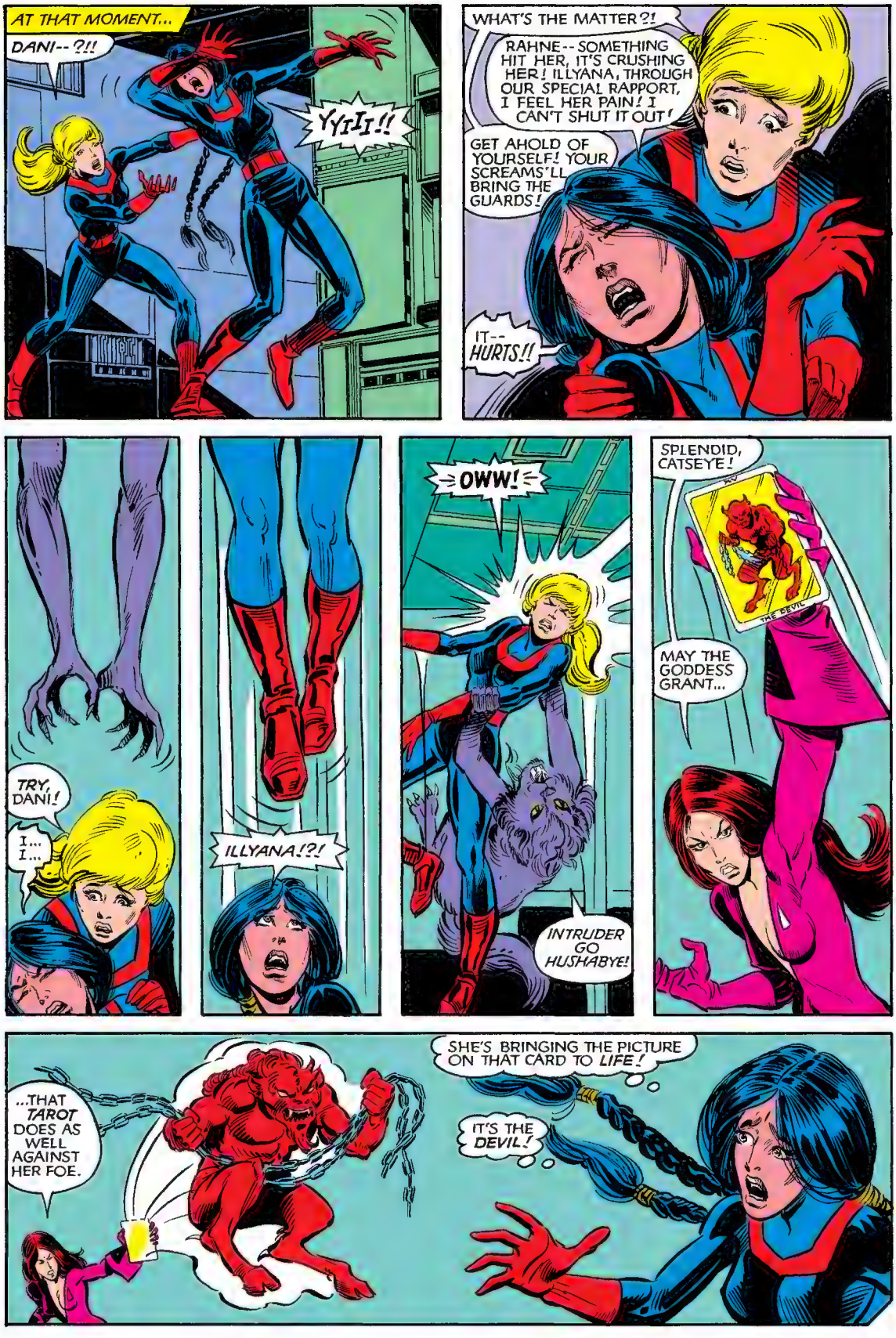

"TWO MUTANTS-- THE GIRL'S UNKNOWN. THE BOY'S IDENTITY IS CONFIRMED AS SAMUEL GUTHRIE-- CANNONBALL!
"THEY'RE ENTERING CREIGHTON HALL. I'M GOING AFTER THEM!"

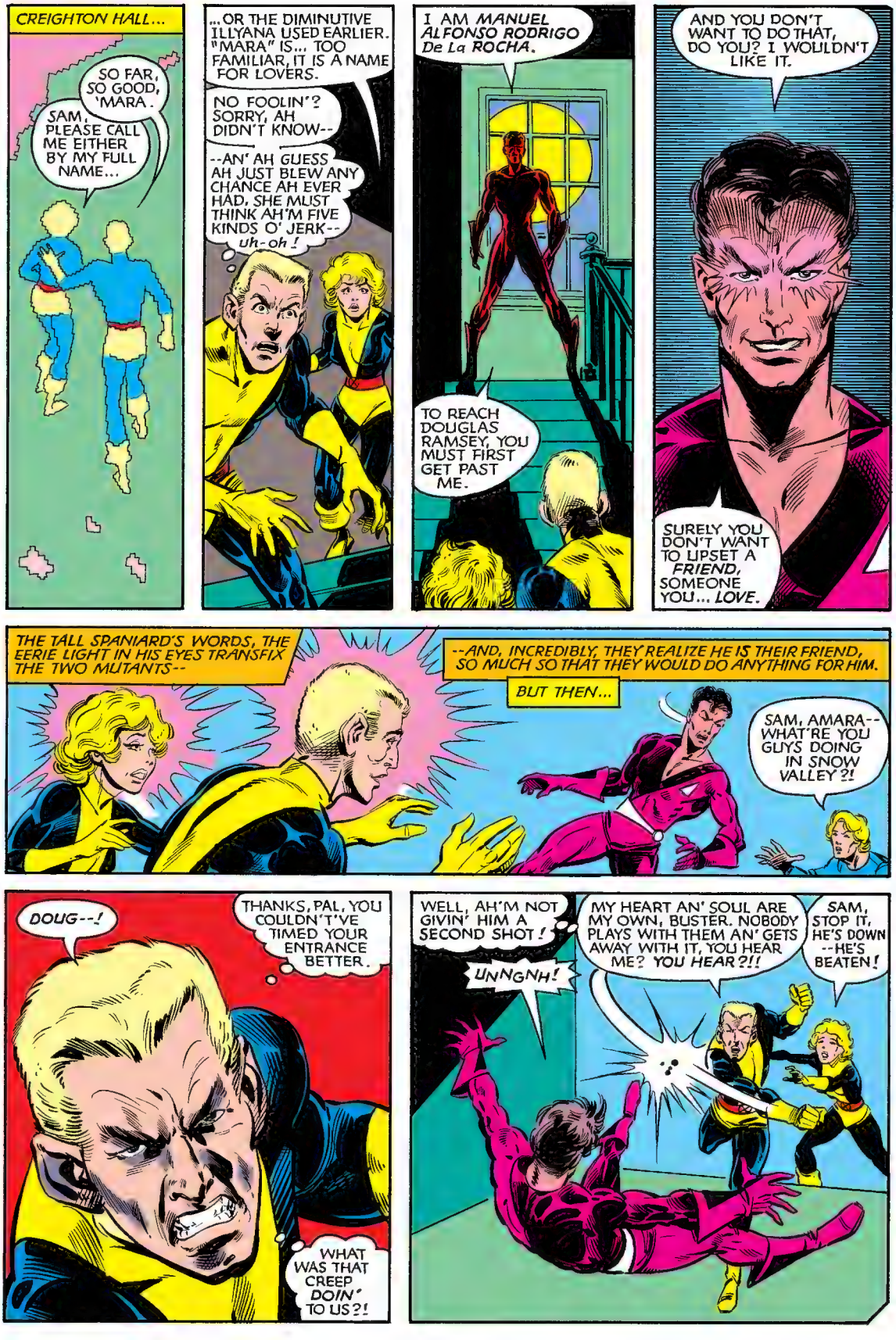

MEANWHILE...
KITTY COULD BE ANYWHERE, ILLYANA, WHERE DO WE BEGIN TO LOOK?
OUR BEST BETS ARE THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, OR THE WHITE QUEEN'S RESIDENCE.
GREAT--AND IF THE WHITE QUEEN'S GUARDING HER, WHAT THEN?
WE IMPROVISE--
THAT SHOULD BE FUN--
HEY!
SORRY, LADIES--DIDN'T MEAN TO STARTLE YOU.
REPORT TO CENTRAL OPERATIONS FOR DAMAGE CONTROL ASSIGNMENTS.
WHEW!
I FORGOT WE WERE WEARING HELLFIRE UNIFORMS. MY HEART NEARLY STOPPED WHEN THAT CREEP SHOWED UP.
NOT TO WORRY. IF WORSE COMES TO WORST...
...MY TELEPORT CIRCLES'LL YANK US AWAY.
ILLYANA, IF YOU CAN DO THAT, WHY ARE WE SNEAKING AROUND?! WOULDN'T IT BE A LOT EASIER TO TELEPORT?
HOW COME?
MAYBE--BUT NOT SAFER.
YOUR POWER HAS ITS DRAWBACKS, DANI, SO DOES MINE. I'LL USE IT AS A LAST RESORT, BUT NOT BEFORE.
IF YOU SAY SO, IT'S YOUR POWER, BUT--LISTEN!
WHAT IS IT?
I COULD'VE SWORN I HEARD SOMETHING.
I WISH RAHNE WAS WITH US--WE COULD USE HER EXTRA-SHARP WOLF SENSES. NOT TO MENTION HER TEETH.
WHICH WAY?
BEHIND THE GIRLS, UNNOTICED...
...A SHADOW FLOWS AMONG SHADOWS.
FERAL EYES GLEAM IN ANTICIPATION OF THE HUNT--AND THE KILL!

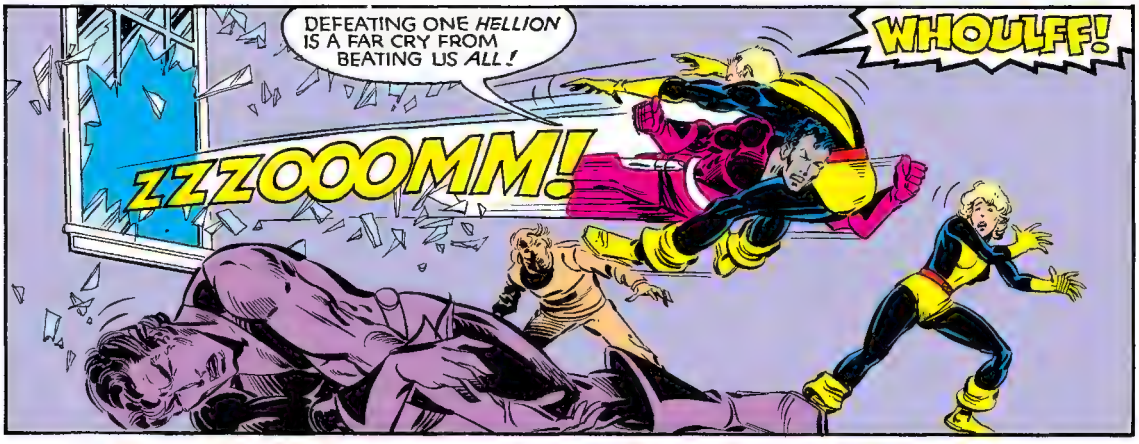
IN ANOTHER PART OF THE COMPLEX...
I'M SORRY, 'BERTO. MY SENSES ARE NO' AS KEEN IN MY TRANSI-TIONAL FORM AS WHEN I'M WHOLLY A WOLF.
BUT YOU CAN'T TALK TO ME THEN.
THA'S TRUE. KITTY'S SCENT IS FAIRLY STRONG-- SHE CAME THIS WAY NOT LONG AGO.
ANYONE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR?
I CANNA TELL.
BETTER LEAVE THIS TO ME, THEN.
BE CAREFUL, YOU'VE NO POWER TO SPARE!
AND YOU WORRY TOO MUCH!
SHE HAS GOOD REASON. THE YOUNG BRAZILIAN'S PHENOMINAL STRENGTH DERIVES SOLELY FROM SUN-LIGHT, AND HIS SOURCE CAPACITY HAS, THUS FAR, PROVED LIMITED. CUT OFF FROM HIS POWER SOURCE-- AT NIGHT, OR UNDERGROUND--
-- HE BECOMES DANGEROUSLY VULNERABLE.
'BERTO-- SOMEBODY'S THERE!
WHA--
ARRGH!
THE MAGNESIUM FLARE BLINDS HIM...
... SURPRISE SHATTERING HIS CONCENTRATION. HE REVERTS TO NORMAL...
SOK!
... AND THUNDERBIRD'S FIST DOES THE REST.
SOME TEST THE QUEEN GAVE US.
I GET TO PUNCH OUT A KID LESS THAN HALF MY SIZE-- BIG DEAL.

RAHNE ATTACKS WITHOUT A SOUND, GOING FOR THE INDIAN'S THROAT...
... BUT HE PROVES AS FAST AS HE IS STRONG.
A WOLF! WHERE'D YOU COME FROM, BEAST?!
I DIDN'T KNOW XAVIER ALLOWED HIS BRATS PETS.
BY THE EAGLE! YOU'RE A SHAPE-CHANGER!
NOW IT'S THUNDER-BIRD'S TURN TO BE THROWN OFF-BALANCE...
... IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE.
I TRUST, BRUTE, THAT'LL TEACH YOU NOT T' LAY HANDS ON THE NEW MUTANTS.
HEY, FUZZY-- CATCH!
EH--?!!
A DISK O' BLACK LIGHT-- ?!?
THOSE SHELVES--
YYIII!!
I'M ROULETTE.
MY WHEELS OF FORTUNE CAN GIVE A PERSON GOOD LUCK OR BAD.
GUESS WHICH ONE YOU GOT?

WHAT'D I TELL YA, T-BIRD-- YA GOTTA WATCH US LITTLE LADIES, WE'LL CLEAN YOUR CLOCK EVERY TIME.
SPARE ME YOUR SARCASM, JENNY.
WHOA! Mr. MUY MACHO! EXCUSE ME FOR LIVIN'! I OFFER SOME FRIENDLY ADVICE--YOU DON'T WANT IT, NNNOOO PROBLEM!
THE WOLF-GIRL WAS HIT PRETTY HARD, SHE COULD BE HURT...
IF SHE IS, VILLAIN, I WILL MAKE YOU WISH YOU'D NEVER BEEN BORN.
ALL YOURS, T-BIRD-- ENJOY!
ROULETTE, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE A TEAM-- MY FOOT!?!
SO QUIT GRIPIN' WHENEVER I DO MY SHARE, OKAY?!
"ROULETTE'S" MOVING AWAY, I'LL HAVE TO KEEP AN EYE ON HER.
THEY'LL PROBABLY COME AT ME FROM OPPOSITE SIDES.
I'D DEARLY LOVE TO SMASH THAT ARROGANT GIANT TO A PULP-- BUT RAHNE TAKES PRIORITY!
THAT FLASH-- ROULETTE THREW SOME-THING AT ME!
YAHHR!
HE'S IN AGONY-- WHAT DID YOU DO?
GAVE HIM SOME BAD LUCK. THAT'S A REAL HEAVY PIECE O' FURNITURE, T-BIRD.
WOULDN'T SURPRISE ME A BIT IF THE BOY PULLED A MUSCLE OR PINCHED A NERVE.
YOU DON'T SOUND TERRIBLY SORRY.
WHY SHOULD I? IT WAS FUN.


AT THAT MOMENT...
DANI--?!!
YYIII!!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?!
RAHNE--SOMETHING HIT HER, IT'S CRUSHING HER! ILLYANA, THROUGH OUR SPECIAL RAPPORT, I FEEL HER PAIN! I CAN'T SHUT IT OUT!
GET AHOLD OF YOURSELF! YOUR SCREAMS'LL BRING THE GUARDS!
IT--HURTS!!
TRY, DANI!
I... I...
ILLYANA!?!
=OWW!=
INTRUDER GO HUSHABYE!
SPLENDID, CATSEYE!
THE DEVIL
MAY THE GODDESS GRANT...
...THAT TAROT DOES AS WELL AGAINST HER FOE.
SHE'S BRINGING THE PICTURE ON THAT CARD TO LIFE!
IT'S THE DEVIL!

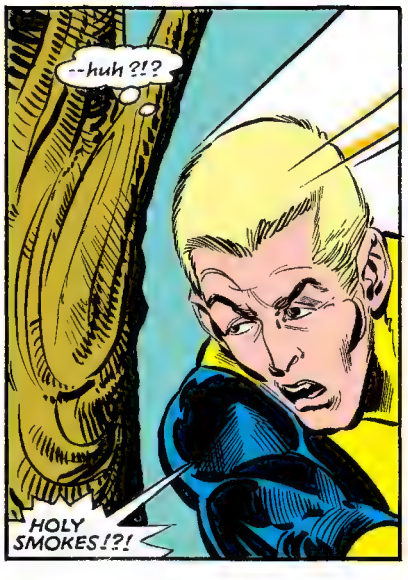

CREIGHTON HALL...
SO FAR, SO GOOD, 'MARA.
SAM, PLEASE CALL ME EITHER BY MY FULL NAME...
...OR THE DIMINUTIVE ILLYANA USED EARLIER. "MARA" IS... TOO FAMILIAR, IT IS A NAME FOR LOVERS.
NO FOOLIN'? SORRY, AH DIDN'T KNOW--
--AN' AH GUESS AH JUST BLEW ANY CHANCE AH EVER HAD. SHE MUST THINK AH'M FIVE KINDS O' JERK--
uh-oh!
I AM MANUEL ALFONSO RODRIGO De La ROCHA.
TO REACH DOUGLAS RAMSEY, YOU MUST FIRST GET PAST ME.
AND YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THAT, DO YOU? I WOULDN'T LIKE IT.
SURELY YOU DON'T WANT TO UPSET A FRIEND, SOMEONE YOU... LOVE.
THE TALL SPANIARD'S WORDS, THE EERIE LIGHT IN HIS EYES TRANSFIX THE TWO MUTANTS--
--AND, INCREDIBLY, THEY REALIZE HE IS THEIR FRIEND, SO MUCH SO THAT THEY WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR HIM.
BUT THEN...
SAM, AMARA-- WHAT'RE YOU GUYS DOING IN SNOW VALLEY?!
DOUG--!
THANKS, PAL, YOU COULDN'T'VE TIMED YOUR ENTRANCE BETTER.
WHAT WAS THAT CREEP DOIN' TO US?!
WELL, AH'M NOT GIVIN' HIM A SECOND SHOT!
UNNGNH!
MY HEART AN' SOUL ARE MY OWN, BUSTER. NOBODY PLAYS WITH THEM AN' GETS AWAY WITH IT, YOU HEAR ME? YOU HEAR?!!
SAM, STOP IT, HE'S DOWN --HE'S BEATEN!

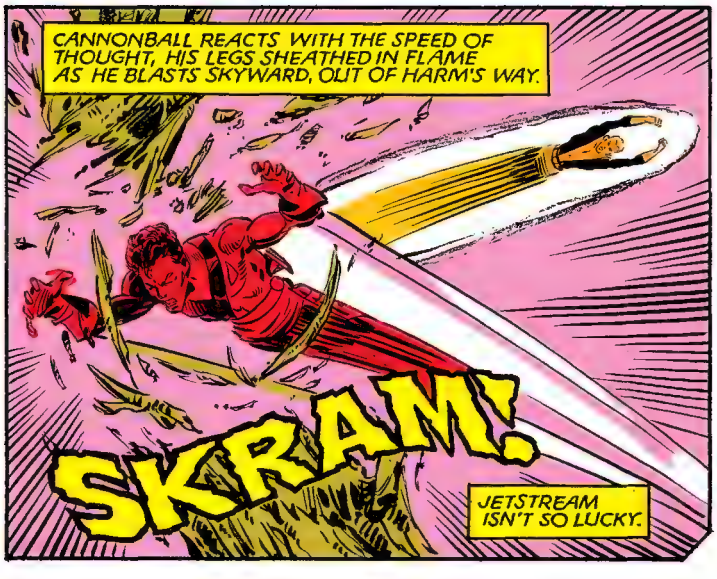

DEFEATING ONE HELLION IS A FAR CRY FROM BEATING US ALL!
WHOULFF!
ZZZOOOMM!

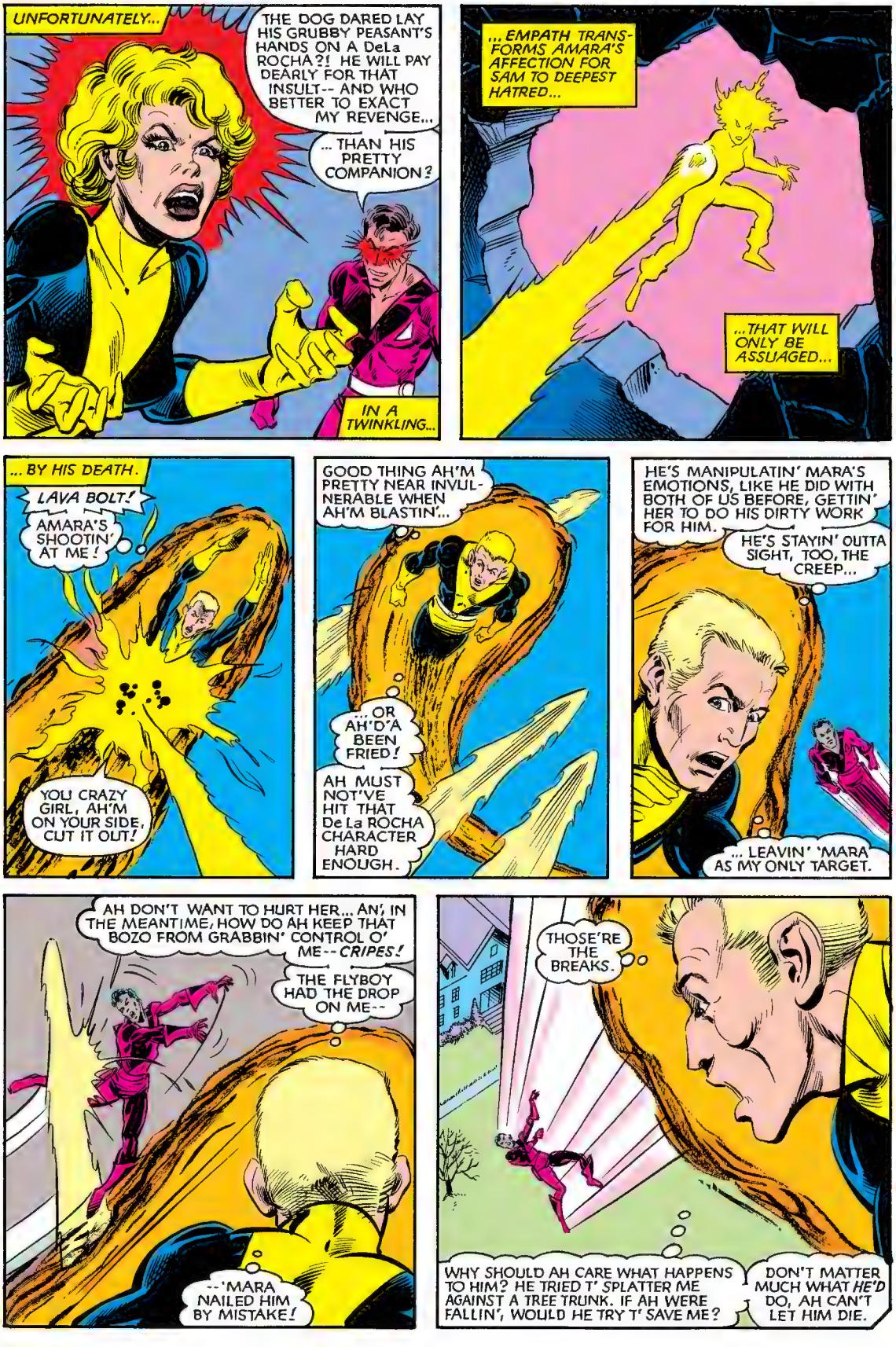
THAT ROAR--IT SOUNDS LIKE A JET!
HEADS UP! IT'S SOME KIND'A SUPER-HERO BATTLE!

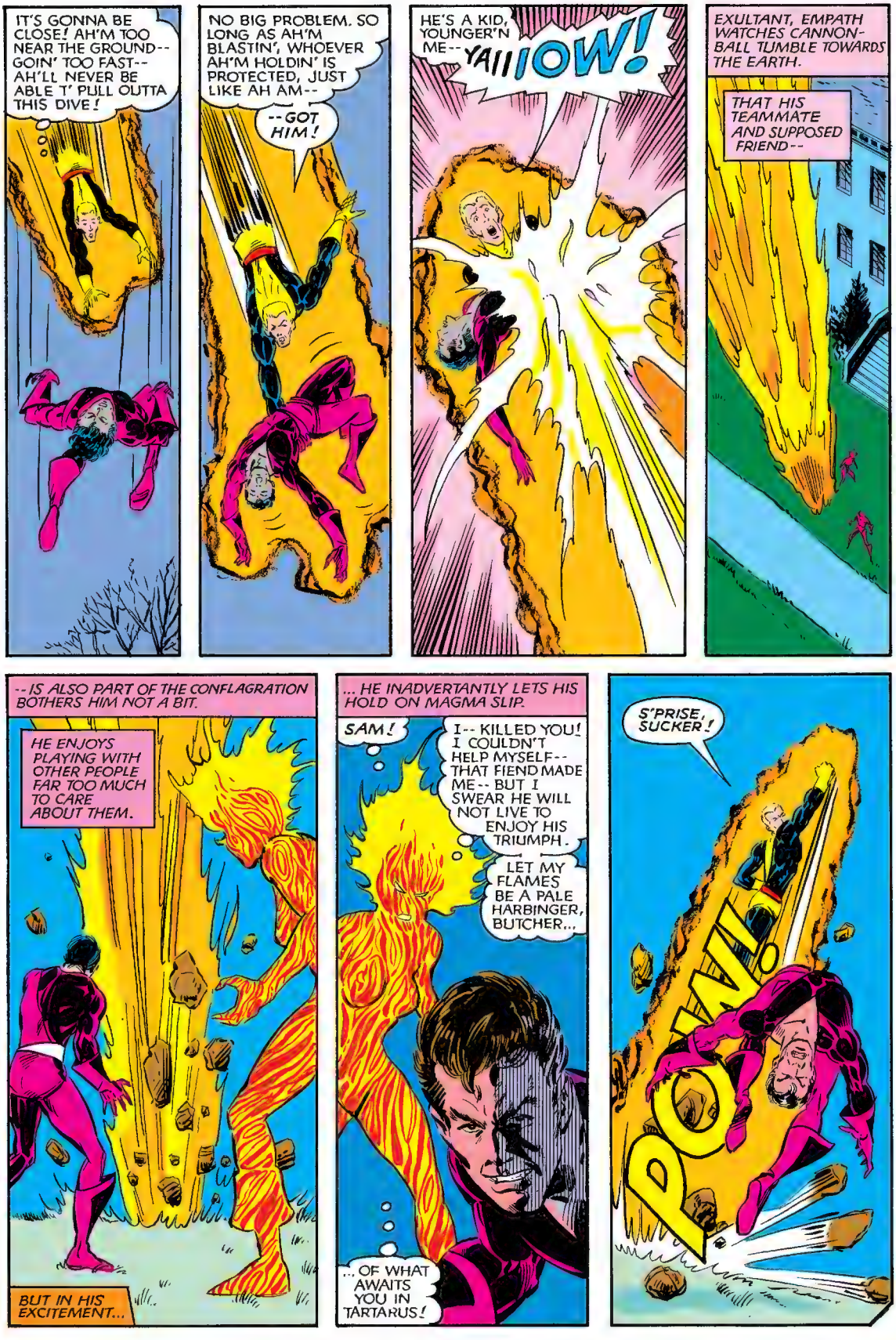
Sigh!
I'D HOPED MY PROTEGES COULD DEAL WITH THE NEW MUTANTS WITHOUT ATTRACTING UNDUE ATTENTION. IF JET-STREAM KEEPS THIS UP, HE MAY WELL WRECK THE SCHOOL!
PAST TIME, I THINK, TO TAKE MATTERS INTO MY OWN HANDS.

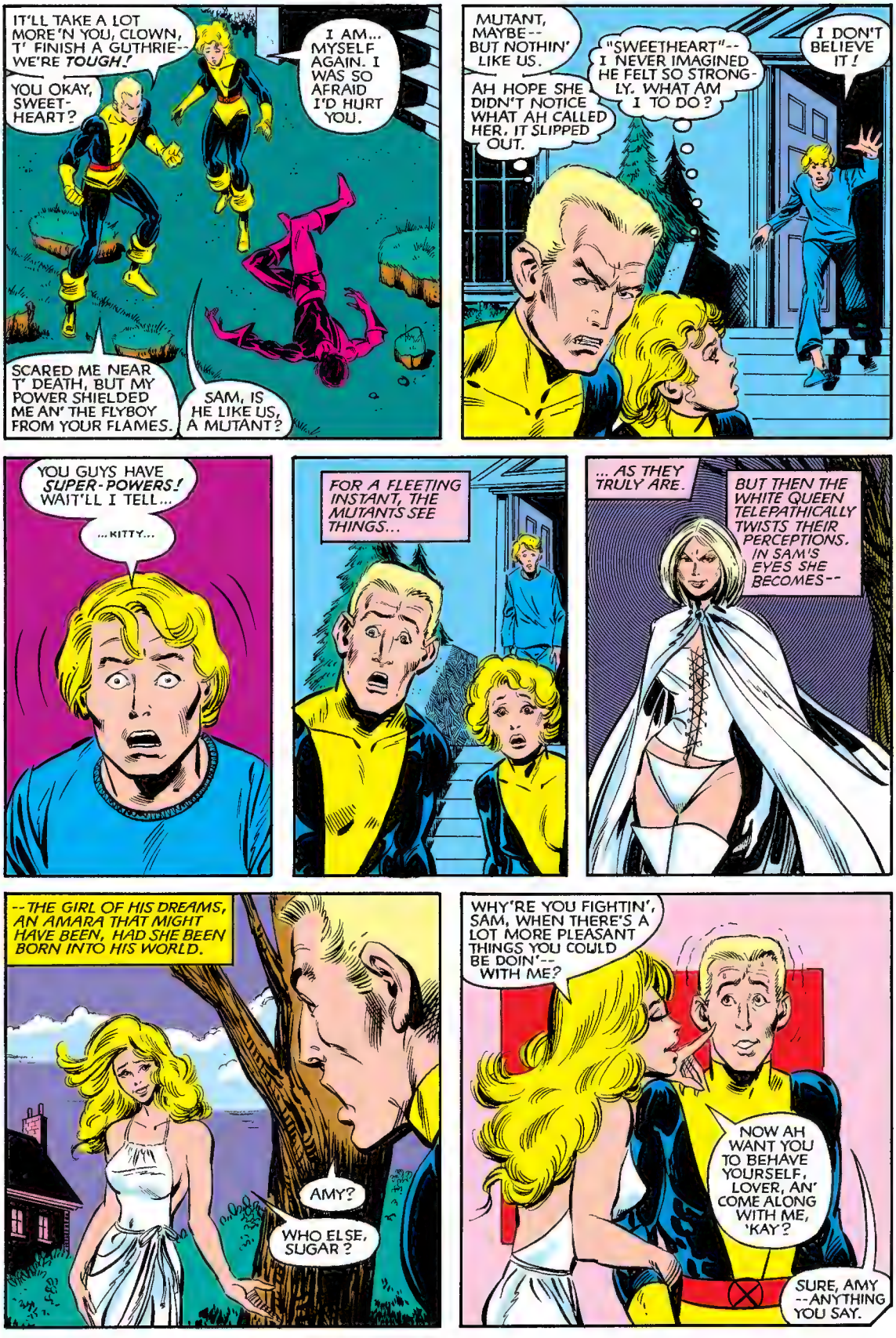
IF THE DORMITORY WALL DIDN'T SMASH THE FIGHT OUT OF YOU, AMERICAN...
...I'LL WAGER THIS OAK SHOULD DO THE TRICK!
AIN'T BEEN... HIT SO HARD... SINCE VARSITY FOOTBALL--HARD... TO CONCENTRATE... WHERE AM I... WHA'S GOIN' ON--

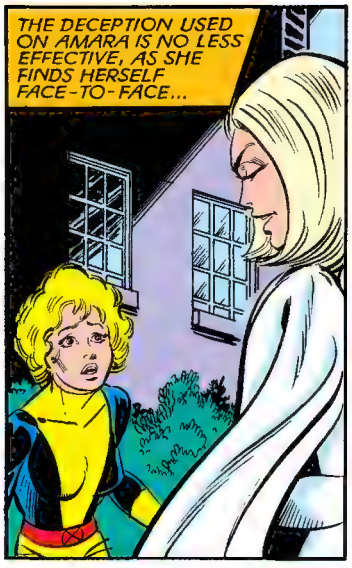

--huh?!?
HOLY SMOKES!?!

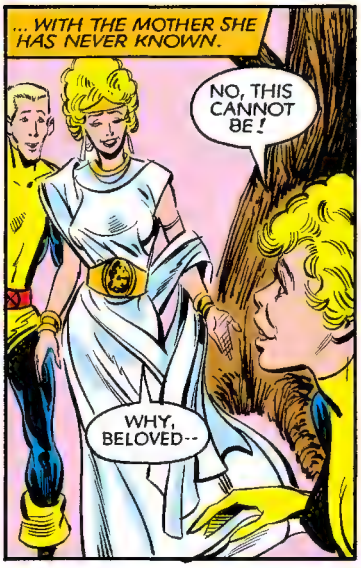

CANNONBALL REACTS WITH THE SPEED OF THOUGHT, HIS LEGS SHEATHED IN FLAME AS HE BLASTS SKYWARD, OUT OF HARM'S WAY.
SKRAM!
JETSTREAM ISN'T SO LUCKY.

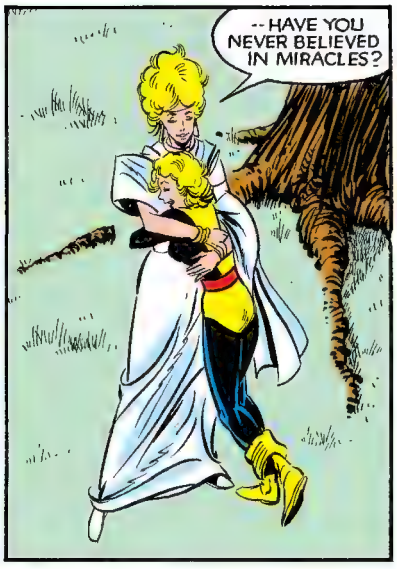

UNFORTUNATELY...
THE DOG DARED LAY HIS GRUBBY PEASANT'S HANDS ON A DeLa ROCHA?! HE WILL PAY DEARLY FOR THAT INSULT-- AND WHO BETTER TO EXACT MY REVENGE...
... THAN HIS PRETTY COMPANION?
IN A TWINKLING...
... EMPATH TRANSFORMS AMARA'S AFFECTION FOR SAM TO DEEPEST HATRED...
...THAT WILL ONLY BE ASSUAGED...
... BY HIS DEATH.
LAVA BOLT!
AMARA'S SHOOTIN' AT ME!
YOU CRAZY GIRL, AH'M ON YOUR SIDE. CUT IT OUT!
GOOD THING AH'M PRETTY NEAR INVULNERABLE WHEN AH'M BLASTIN'...
... OR AH'D'A BEEN FRIED!
AH MUST NOT'VE HIT THAT DeLa ROCHA CHARACTER HARD ENOUGH.
HE'S MANIPULATIN' MARA'S EMOTIONS, LIKE HE DID WITH BOTH OF US BEFORE, GETTIN' HER TO DO HIS DIRTY WORK FOR HIM.
HE'S STAYIN' OUTTA SIGHT, TOO, THE CREEP...
... LEAVIN' 'MARA AS MY ONLY TARGET.
AH DON'T WANT TO HURT HER... AN', IN THE MEANTIME, HOW DO AH KEEP THAT BOZO FROM GRABBIN' CONTROL O' ME-- CRIPES!
THE FLYBOY HAD THE DROP ON ME--
--'MARA NAILED HIM BY MISTAKE!
THOSE'RE THE BREAKS.
WHY SHOULD AH CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO HIM? HE TRIED T' SPLATTER ME AGAINST A TREE TRUNK. IF AH WERE FALLIN', WOULD HE TRY T' SAVE ME?
DON'T MATTER MUCH WHAT HE'D DO, AH CAN'T LET HIM DIE.

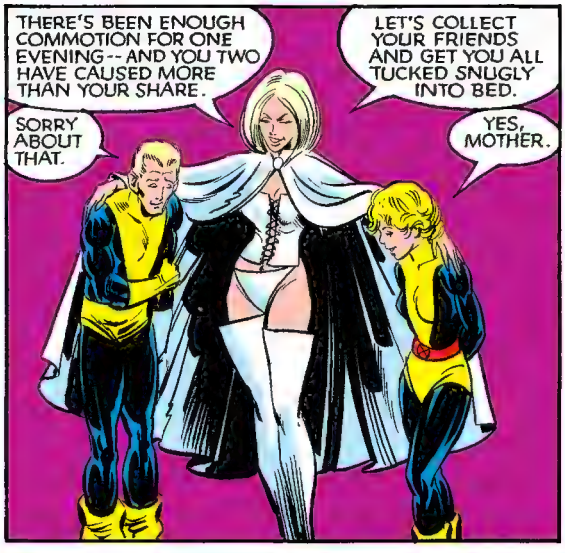

IT'S GONNA BE CLOSE! AH'M TOO NEAR THE GROUND-- GOIN' TOO FAST-- AH'LL NEVER BE ABLE T' PULL OUTTA THIS DIVE!
NO BIG PROBLEM. SO LONG AS AH'M BLASTIN', WHOEVER AH'M HOLDIN' IS PROTECTED, JUST LIKE AH AM--
--GOT HIM!
HE'S A KID, YOUNGER'N ME--
YAIIIOW!
EXULTANT, EMPATH WATCHES CANNON-BALL TUMBLE TOWARDS THE EARTH.
THAT HIS TEAMMATE AND SUPPOSED FRIEND--
--IS ALSO PART OF THE CONFLAGRATION BOTHERS HIM NOT A BIT.
HE ENJOYS PLAYING WITH OTHER PEOPLE FAR TOO MUCH TO CARE ABOUT THEM.
BUT IN HIS EXCITEMENT...
...HE INADVERTANTLY LETS HIS HOLD ON MAGMA SLIP.
SAM!
I-- KILLED YOU! I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF-- THAT FIEND MADE ME-- BUT I SWEAR HE WILL NOT LIVE TO ENJOY HIS TRIUMPH.
LET MY FLAMES BE A PALE HARBINGER, BUTCHER...
...OF WHAT AWAITS YOU IN TARTARUS!
S'PRISE, SUCKER!
POW!

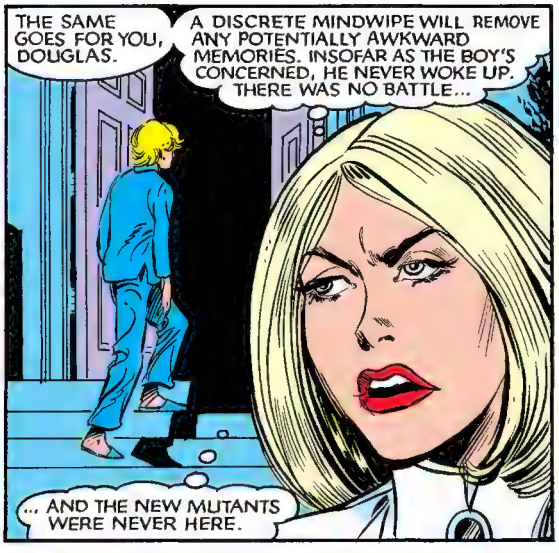

IT'LL TAKE A LOT MORE 'N YOU, CLOWN, T' FINISH A GUTHRIE-- WE'RE TOUGH!
YOU OKAY, SWEET-HEART?
I AM... MYSELF AGAIN. I WAS SO AFRAID I'D HURT YOU.
SCARED ME NEAR T' DEATH, BUT MY POWER SHIELDED ME AN' THE FLYBOY FROM YOUR FLAMES.
SAM, IS HE LIKE US, A MUTANT?
MUTANT, MAYBE-- BUT NOTHIN' LIKE US.
AH HOPE SHE DIDN'T NOTICE WHAT AH CALLED HER, IT SLIPPED OUT.
"SWEETHEART"-- I NEVER IMAGINED HE FELT SO STRONG-LY. WHAT AM I TO DO?
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
YOU GUYS HAVE SUPER-POWERS! WAIT'LL I TELL...
...KITTY...
FOR A FLEETING INSTANT, THE MUTANTS SEE THINGS...
...AS THEY TRULY ARE.
BUT THEN THE WHITE QUEEN TELEPATHICALLY TWISTS THEIR PERCEPTIONS. IN SAM'S EYES SHE BECOMES--
--THE GIRL OF HIS DREAMS, AN AMARA THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN, HAD SHE BEEN BORN INTO HIS WORLD.
AMY?
WHO ELSE, SUGAR?
WHY'RE YOU FIGHTIN', SAM, WHEN THERE'S A LOT MORE PLEASANT THINGS YOU COULD BE DOIN'-- WITH ME?
NOW AH WANT YOU TO BEHAVE YOURSELF, LOVER, AN' COME ALONG WITH ME, 'KAY?
SURE, AMY --ANYTHING YOU SAY.


THE DECEPTION USED ON AMARA IS NO LESS EFFECTIVE, AS SHE FINDS HERSELF FACE-TO-FACE...


...WITH THE MOTHER SHE HAS NEVER KNOWN.
NO, THIS CANNOT BE!
WHY, BELOVED--


--HAVE YOU NEVER BELIEVED IN MIRACLES?


THERE'S BEEN ENOUGH COMMOTION FOR ONE EVENING--AND YOU TWO HAVE CAUSED MORE THAN YOUR SHARE.
LET'S COLLECT YOUR FRIENDS AND GET YOU ALL TUCKED SNUGLY INTO BED.
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
YES, MOTHER.


THE SAME GOES FOR YOU, DOUGLAS.
A DISCRETE MINDWIPE WILL REMOVE ANY POTENTIALLY AWKWARD MEMORIES. INSOFAR AS THE BOY'S CONCERNED, HE NEVER WOKE UP. THERE WAS NO BATTLE...
...AND THE NEW MUTANTS WERE NEVER HERE.

WITHIN THE COMPLEX...
...DANIELLE MOONSTAR FINDS HERSELF BOUND TO THE TAROT DEVIL, FIRST BY HIS CHAIN...

...THEN, TO HER HORROR, BY DEEPER AND MORE LASTING BONDS...
...AS HIS RANK ESSENCE FLOODS THROUGH HER TO THE CORE OF HER VERY BEING...
...CORRUPTING BODY AND SOUL.

Bullpen Bulletins

I GOT THIS LETTER . . .

a while back. It's from *Herb Trimpe* who's been a top Marvel artist since Tutankhamon wore diapers. High-flyin' Herb pilots his very own plane — a nifty-looking open-cockpit biplane — around the country in his spare time, by the way. Here's his letter . . .

Dear Jim,

I thought you might get a bang out of this. We went to the beach (Delaware shore) for vacation this summer. There's a nice little airport down there at a place called Rehobeth. As we've done the past two years, Linda takes the girls in the car and I fly Alex down in the plane. To make a real long story short(er), Alex and I ran afoul of some weather (not in the forecast), and got hemmed in by thunderstorms and low visibility along the Delaware River. There was no airport around where I could conveniently set down, so I chose the only possible out, with the rain coming down and the lightning flashing about, we landed in a farmer's soybean field. Just in time, too, as the wind and rain swept through the area. Lines went down, lights went out, branches were felled, the whole bit. Anyway, as we swung around into wind to get everything tied down, we were greeted by this local farmer and his family. Drenched, we were invited inside for dinner, and the rest is history. The whole thing was like something out of "The Great Waldo Pepper." Linda drove up to get us and the next day we drove back to fly the airplane out. If you ever got a spare half hour, I'll tell you about that one, too. Short fields and power lines, etc. Anyway, the upshot, the punch line, the payoff to this episode was that this family's name was *Marvel*. That's right, the farmer's name is *Ray Marvel*. Small world, ain't it?

Best to all,
Herb

AND NOW A WORD FROM VIRGINIA . . . Virginia Romita, that is. Virginia is our Traffic Manager, responsible for keeping Marvel Comics on time — which she does amazingly well. It's not easy though, believe me. A few days ago, I heard her grumbling, snarling and cursing various Marvel editors' ancestors as she lugged her huge schedule book down the hall. "Virginia," I said, "you've got to *vent* this anger! Write it down! I'll print what you write on the Bullpen Page for the world to see! It'll make you feel better . . . and save me some writing."

She agreed — and so, it gives me great pleasure to present:

Virginia Romita's Rostrum

Let me introduce myself. My name is Virginia Romita. I keep the schedules and traffic moving at Marvel Comics. I have a meeting with the editors and their assistants every week and chart the progress of their books. I don't expect much from them — just perfection. They don't miss the mark too often considering the problems they have to meet and solve. I like due dates on all books to be met and kept. They in turn try to meet them and keep the quality of the books as well — no easy task I assure you. Consider all the obstacles. For example, one artist's cat fell out the window not once, but on three separate occasions forcing him to miss his due date each time. One writer had the misfortune of having a bird build its nest outside his bedroom window — the constant chirping kept him from sleeping, therefore unable to write — another due date missed. You'd be amazed how many portfolios are lost or stolen on the subway, how often lack of supplies, births human or animal, 24 hour nervous breakdowns, cause delays. I am. If we ran a contest on the most imaginative excuse given for missing a deadline, we'd be hard pressed picking a winner. Despite the never ending catastrophes, the editorial staff does a terrific job. Or else! They put out great comics and (almost) always on time.

I can't close this article down without mentioning the JR's (John Romitas) in my life.

John Sr. who used to draw Spider-Man, was not one for being late — but at what price. Way back when I was waiting to be driven to the hospital on John Jr.'s impending birth, Sr. asked if he had enough time to finish up the comic page he was working on. I guess he never thought of making up some story for not turning it in. He should have consulted with his friend the late Bill Everett, creator of Submariner. Bill was a creative genius. Once, when he missed a deadline, he claimed that his pet hamster ate through 6 pages of finished penciled pages (and never got indigestion). Now, no one could have made that up — or could they? Obviously, his hamster did not approve of comics as an art form.

You know, I was so concerned about getting this thing started I forgot it was going to need an end. I feel like the actor with stage fright, but when he got on stage did not want to leave. The only way seems to be to tell you I've enjoyed talking to you.

Virginia

HYPE BOX

ALIEN LEGION #1 — We've been showing little hints and glimpses over the past few months, but now we're ready to unveil it at last — Marvel's latest groundbreaking comic! CARL POTTS, ALAN ZELENETZ, FRANK CIROCCO, and TERRY AUSTIN have pooled their mighty talents to produce the most offbeat series of the year, featuring a veritable army of the most bizarre, colorful, and intriguing alien creatures ever to grace a comic page. It's destined to be the talk of fandom — so pick it up, or you'll be left out of a lot of conversations!

GRAPHIC NOVEL #10 — RICK VEITCH wrote and drew this daringly different science fiction adventure tale. Set on a far distant earth colony where people worship "The Sponsor," it stars a guy by the name of Sunoco Firestone. It's an outer space love story with commercial interruptions! And if you want to find out just what that means, you'll have to pick up the novel, won't you?

THIS JUST IN . . .

If you're a fan of computer adventure games, you'll be pleased to hear that Marvel Comics is teaming up with *Adventure International*, the leading computer games company, to do a series of games involving Marvel characters. Scott Adams, the famous game designer who heads up A.I., has had extensive meetings with myself, John Byrne and Bob Budiansky to make sure the games are true to the Marvel Universe. And if you're a fan of Marvel Comics, you'll also be pleased to hear that we'll be publishing comics based upon the games! Keep watching . . .

PRICE INCREASE?

No, not in the foreseeable future! Thanks to you people buying a *lot* of comics, we're able to hold the line! We appreciate your enthusiastic support, and in return, we're doing our best to keep prices where you want 'em — as low as possible!

Best,

Jim Shooter

CHECK LIST

- ☐ **THE THING #12**
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #207**
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #16**
- ☐ **KA-ZAR #32**
- ☐ **DR. STRANGE CLASSICS #4** — Representing more of the LEE / DITKO classics of sorcery, from **Strange Tales #139-141.**
- ☐ **MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS (Limited Series) #2**
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #253**
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #294**
- ☐ **THOR #344**
- ☐ **INDIANA JONES #18**
- ☐ **DR. STRANGE #65**
- ☐ **U.S. 1 (Limited Series) #10**
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #296**
- ☐ **AVENGERS #244**
- ☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #159**
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #164** — Reprinting "The Man in the Crime-Master's Mask," by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO, from **Amazing Spider-Man #28**
- ☐ **X-MEN #182**
- ☐ **ROM #55**
- ☐ **POWER MAN/IRON FIST #106**
- ☐ **G.I. JOE #24**
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #267**
- ☐ **MARVEL TEAM-UP #142** — Featuring **Spider-Man** and **Captain Marvel**
- ☐ **IRON MAN #183**
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #91**
- ☐ **DEFENDERS #132**
- ☐ **STAR WARS #84**
- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #11**
- ☐ **HERCULES (Limited Series)#4**
- ☐ **WHAT IF #45** — "What if the Hulk Went Berserk?"

MARVEL MAGAZINES

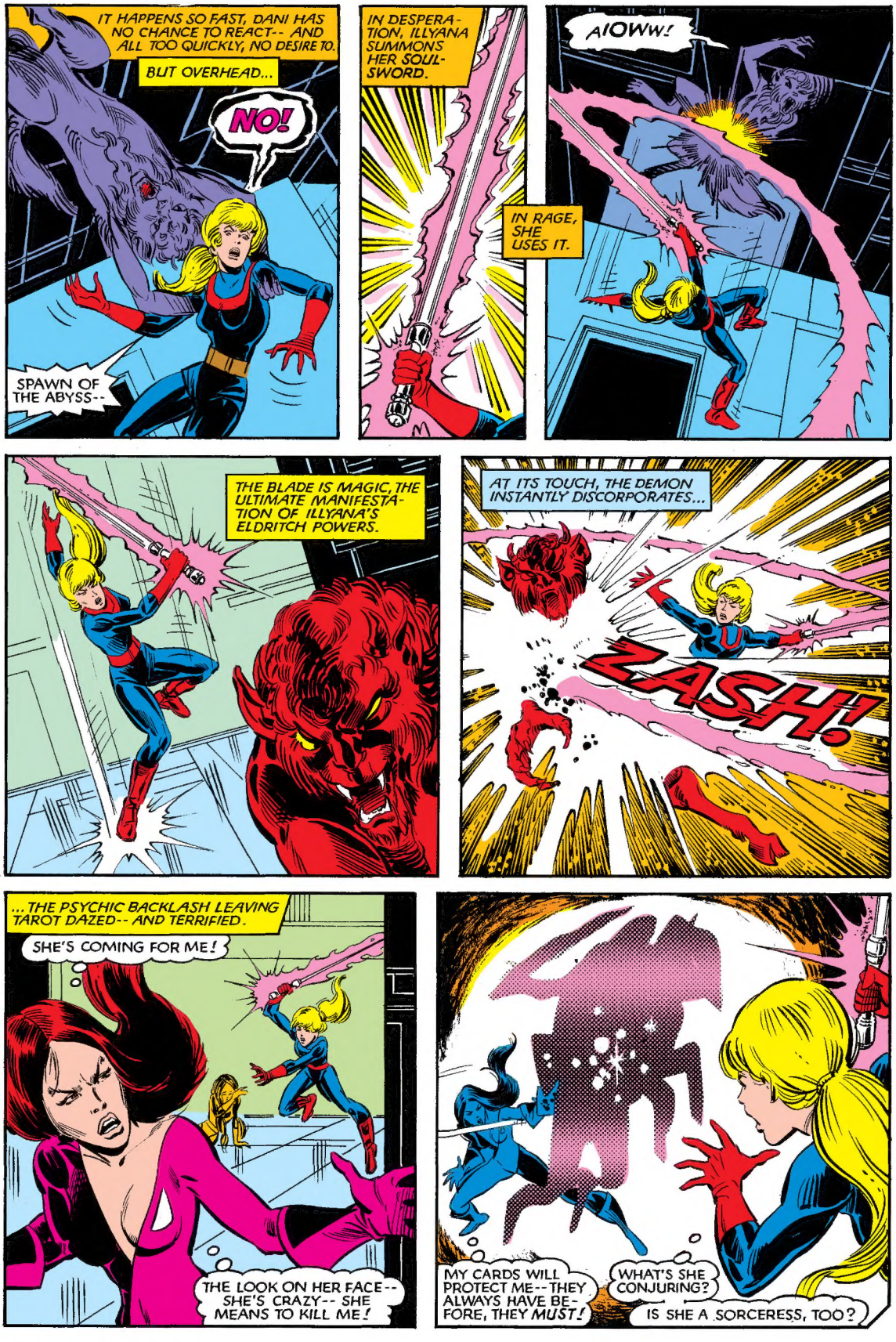
- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #100** — Special anniversary issue.
- ☐ **MARVEL AGE #15**

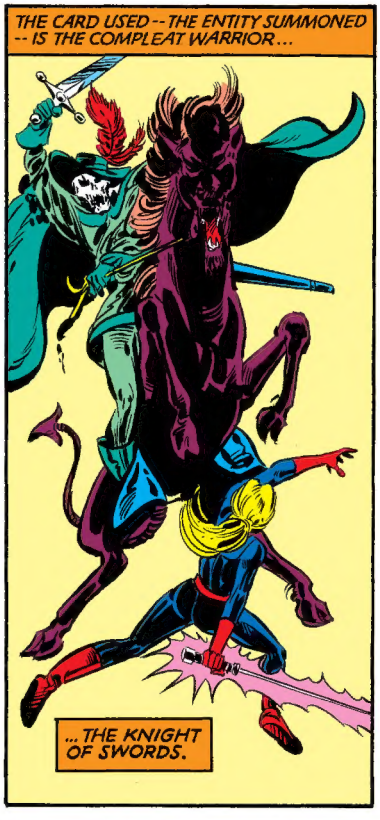
EPIC COMICS

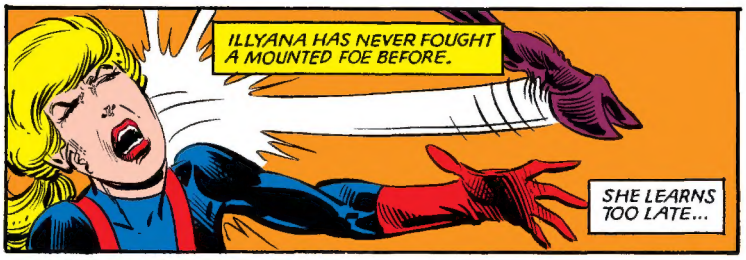
- ☐ **ALIEN LEGION #1** — The debut of a thrilling new series. See Hype Box.
- ☐ **DREADSTAR #10**

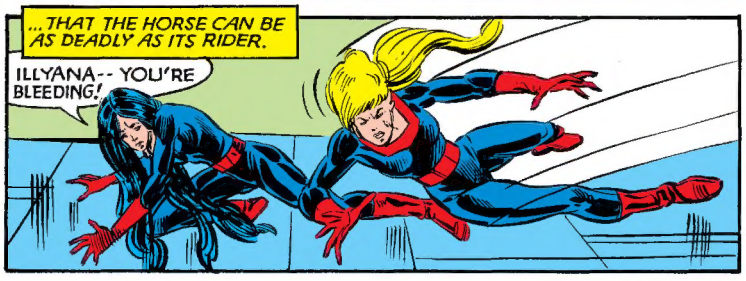
GRAPHIC NOVELS

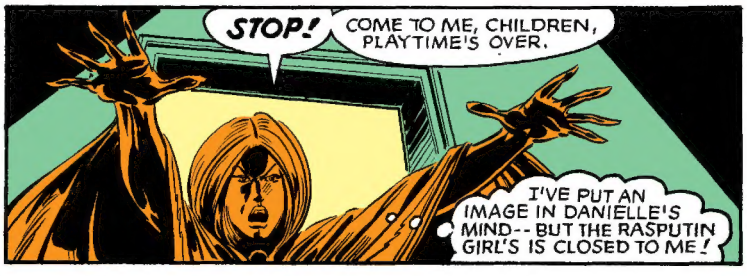
- ☐ **#10: HEARTBURST** — See Hype Box.

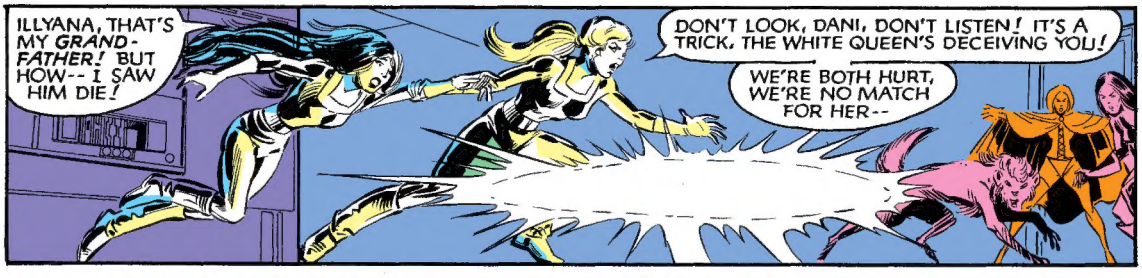

IT HAPPENS SO FAST, DANI HAS NO CHANCE TO REACT-- AND ALL TOO QUICKLY, NO DESIRE TO.
BUT OVERHEAD...
NO!
SPAWN OF THE ABYSS--
IN DESPERATION, ILLYANA SUMMONS HER SOUL-SWORD.
IN RAGE, SHE USES IT.
AIOWW!
THE BLADE IS MAGIC, THE ULTIMATE MANIFESTATION OF ILLYANA'S ELDRITCH POWERS.
AT ITS TOUCH, THE DEMON INSTANTLY DISCORPORATES...
ZASH!
...THE PSYCHIC BACKLASH LEAVING TAROT DAZED-- AND TERRIFIED.
SHE'S COMING FOR ME!
THE LOOK ON HER FACE-- SHE'S CRAZY-- SHE MEANS TO KILL ME!
MY CARDS WILL PROTECT ME-- THEY ALWAYS HAVE BEFORE, THEY MUST!
WHAT'S SHE CONJURING?
IS SHE A SORCERESS, TOO?

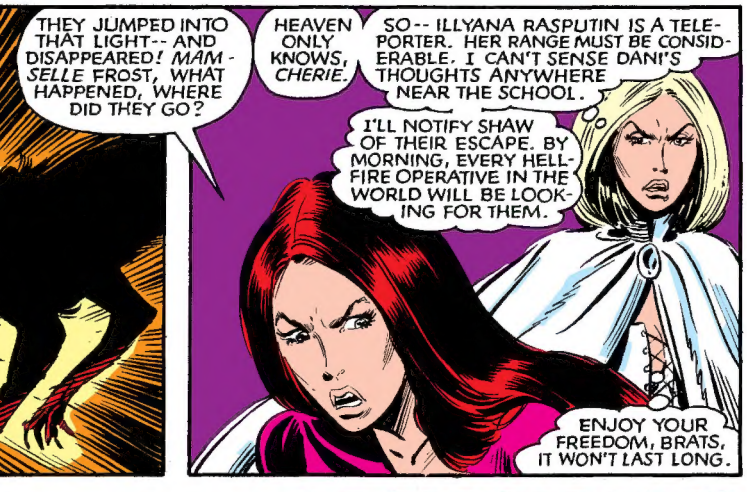









ILLYANA, THAT'S MY GRAND-FATHER! BUT HOW-- I SAW HIM DIE!
DON'T LOOK, DANI, DON'T LISTEN! IT'S A TRICK. THE WHITE QUEEN'S DECEIVING YOU!
WE'RE BOTH HURT, WE'RE NO MATCH FOR HER--


THEY JUMPED INTO THAT LIGHT-- AND DISAPPEARED! MAM-SELLE FROST, WHAT HAPPENED, WHERE DID THEY GO?
HEAVEN ONLY KNOWS, CHERIE.
SO-- ILLYANA RASPUTIN IS A TELE-PORTER. HER RANGE MUST BE CONSID-ERABLE. I CAN'T SENSE DANI'S THOUGHTS ANYWHERE NEAR THE SCHOOL.
I'LL NOTIFY SHAW OF THEIR ESCAPE. BY MORNING, EVERY HELL-FIRE OPERATIVE IN THE WORLD WILL BE LOOK-ING FOR THEM.
ENJOY YOUR FREEDOM, BRATS, IT WON'T LAST LONG.

NEXT ISSUE

THE FINAL SHOWDOWN AND **The GETAWAY!**

Digitized by

Syl3nt Bob and PhD

He's a gonna be OKAY!

I think...